

Message Text

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15 53

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 MC-02

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

RSR-01 L-03 PRS-01 USIE-00 (ADP) W
----- 064227

O R 141145 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6647

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 1621

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA. 2., LINE 10)

ABU DHABI FOR AMBASSADOR STOLTZFUS

LONDON FOR LAMBRAKIS

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MASS, KU

SUBJECT: MILITARY SALES M60 TANK DEMONSTRATION
FOR KUWAIT ARMY

REF: STATE 91154

1. CONSIDERING LIKELIHOOD THAT KUWAIT MOD WOULD AGREE
TO KUWAIT ARMY TEAM CURRENTLY IN UK MAKING BRIEF TDY
TRIP TO US FOR PURPOSE WITNESSING M-60 TANK DEMONSTRATION
WE BELIEVE THREE MOST IMPORTANT CONCERNS WILL
BE LENGTH OF STAY, COST AND POSSIBLE PUBLICITY.

2. KUWAIT ARMY ARE STILL ON ALERT. THEREFORE
WE DOUBT MOD WOULD WANT GROUP TO REMAIN OUTSIDE OF
KUWAIT FOR MUCH LONGER THAN ORIGINALLY PLANNED. WITH
LARGE PLANNED MILITARY OUTLAYS IN OFFERING, WE SUSPECT
THAT MOD WILL BE ATTEMPTING HOLD GENERAL COSTS DOWN
AND THEREFORE MAY BALK AT PAYING COSTS OF SENDING
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TEAM TO US PARTICULARLY SINCE THEY WILL HAVE LITTLE TIME TO CONSIDER DECISION. IF USG COULD PROVIDE TRANSPORT BELIEVE KUWAITIS COULD HANDLE OTHER COSTS (E. I. PER DIEM) GOK TREATING US MILITARY ROLE AS CONFIDENTIAL SUBJECT, ALTHOUGH BY NOW IMMINENT SALES BECOMING WELL KNOWN AMONG KUWAITI BUSINESSMEN AND PRESUMABLY AMONG OTHERS AS WELL. GOK PROBABLY WOULD WANT NO RPT NO PUBLICITY DURING VISIT, BUT IMPORTANT THING FOR THEM IS TO WITNESS DEMONSTRATION AND WE DOUBT THAT THEY WOULD REFUSE TO GO TO US SIMPLE TO AVOID PUBLICITY.

3. OPINIONS IN PARA 2 ARE THOSE OF EMBASSY. SINCE PLANS FOR DEMONSTRATION IN US ARE QUITE TENTATIVE AT THIS TIME, WE THOUGH IT BEST AVOID DICUSSING SUBJECT WITH KUWAITI MILITARY. NEVERTHELESS WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ASAP RE WHAT WE CAN TELL GOK SO THAT IT CAN BEGIN MAKING NECESSARY ARRANGMENTS FROM ITS END. MCCLELLAND

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